

Business Contract

By R. H. WILKINSON

(Associated Newspapers-WNU Service)

DANA MILTON was thinking of the future.

"Look here, Simon," he said, "I've been thinking this thing over and I've come to the conclusion that it won't be good policy for me to become equal partners."

"You mean you don't think we ought to buy the business?"

"It isn't that, I think the business is worth every cent its owners are asking. But you know, Simon, you and I have only known each other a couple of months. True, we worked together and were pretty successful on that last proposition. But—well, I just don't think it's good policy for two ambitious young men to put an equal amount of money in a business."

"I get it," said Simon. "Maybe you're right." He looked at Dana critically. "I'd like to be the one that put the money in, Dana. It was I who discovered the thing."

Dana nodded. "I thought you'd feel that way about it, Simon. And I'm willing to withdraw, provided, of course, that you give me a consulting position to make sure of a job during the next few years."

"Fair enough," Simon extended his hand. Secretly he was elated. He knew that Dana was a conscientious worker, a good salesman.

Simon and Dana took the insurance company over in May. Within a month's time they discovered it wasn't the profit-making proposition both had anticipated. It was run down at the heels, so to speak.

Simon was angered and not a little worried. Yet he had put too much money into the thing to let it go. By fall a little business began to come in and then a little more. During October they broke even. November showed a profit, and December still a greater profit. During January and February the gross business increased in leaps and bounds. Simon, watching the weekly returns, began to lick his lips. In April he dug out the contract he had made with Dana and perused its contents. There was, he saw, a chance for complaint. The contract provided that Dana be paid a percentage of the gross business; that he should sell policies at the rate charged by previous owners. There, thought Simon, was the snag. Dana had cut the rate in order to start the ball rolling.

Simon summoned Dana. "Dana," he said, "I notice you've been selling at reduced rates. We can't make a profit that way."

"That was the only way to get things going."

Simon shook his head. "I'm sorry. Our contract provided that you sell at rates charged by the previous owners. You ignored the clause, thereby causing no little dissension among our clients. I'll have to let you go."

"Let me go? Why, you can't do that! We have a contract!"

Simon looked at him icily. "You broke the contract, mister."

It wasn't until Dana had reached home and broken the news to Hattie, his wife, that he realized what losing his job meant.

The next day Dana received a letter from the insurance company. Dana was told that he had turned the matter over to his lawyer. Dana considered various possibilities. He needed money at once. Remembering that Simon's greatest weakness was his own sense of importance, he decided on a plan.

He visited a local printer and ordered some important looking letterheads, with his name at the top.

Two days later another letter arrived from Simon. It stated that he would like to meet Dana at Attorney Harry Davis' office on Wednesday. Dana called up his printer and asked for his letterheads, and was told they weren't ready. Perturbed, Dana waited two days longer and then, upon being advised that the copy for his letterheads had been mislaid, sat down to answer Simon's letter on plain white paper.

The letter was hardly completed when the front doorbell rang and Hattie admitted a small wizened man.

"My name," he explained, "is Davis. Attorney Davis. I'm representing Simon Douglas." He paused, coughed. "Mr. Douglas says you have neglected to answer his letter. Your silence has disturbed him. He seems to think you are preparing to bring suit. And where as there is little on which you could sue him, Mr. Douglas feels that court action would injure his business. He is—ah—prepared to make you a proposition."

Dana wet his lips. "What kind of a proposition?"

"You were to receive a percentage of the gross business. The sum total of things for a year would, in normal times, amount to about \$3,000. Mr. Douglas is prepared to pay you \$2,000 if you will destroy the contract."

Dana gulped. The amount was twice what for which he had intended to bring suit. And a suit, if successful, might have netted him \$500. After a moment he said: "Very well, I'll take the check and hand over the contract. The money will come in handy to pay for my letterheads."

And at the look of bewilderment on the attorney's face, Dana grinned.

News From Rocks

Rocks, May 7.—The frost Saturday night damaged the early gardens.

Mrs. Sherman Garlichhouse spent a few days last week in Meherin with her daughter, Mrs. C. M. Reed.

J. A. Garrett was very sick a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Ransome and children, Jack and Katharine, of Norfolk, visited her mother, Mrs. D. R. Ruge over the week-end.

Miss Helen Garrett spent Sunday afternoon in Lynchburg with Miss Mary Patterson.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Richardson, of Farmville and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach and family spent Sunday with Mrs. D. E. Ruge.

Mrs. Monsey Inge spent last Thursday with Mrs. Jennie Hamilton, of Appomattox.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ranson and Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Ranson were to see Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frank Ranson one night last week.

Mrs. Rhomey Wilson and daughter, Doris Evelyn, left Sunday for High Point, N. C., where she will visit her sister, Mrs. James Thackston, for a few days.

The home-owners club met with Mrs. S. Garlichhouse on Monday afternoon.

Mrs. W. R. Moore, of Montgomery, W. Va., arrived Sunday to spend a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Anderson.

Clarence Edward Almond visited parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Almond, of Lynchburg, recently.

Mrs. W. F. Ranson and Mrs. Harry Ranson and children were in Appomattox visiting her daughter, Mrs. C. M. Evans Thursday morning. While there they called to see the former's great-granddaughter, Peggy Louise Woodbridge.

Mrs. Walter Ransome continues sick. We wish for her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ranson and G. H. Ranson spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Little Cawthorne and Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Cawthorne near Appomattox.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frank Ranson were visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Foster, near Darlington Heights Sunday afternoon.

LIBERTY CHAPEL S. C. A.

The S. C. A. of Liberty Chapel held its regular meeting on Friday morning, April 25. An interesting program was rendered. Two short plays followed the singing.

The home-owners club met with Mrs. S. Garlichhouse on Monday afternoon.

Fertilizer Economies Save Farmers
More Than \$200,000,000 A Year

Washington, D. C.—Lower prices for fertilizers due to industry economies have saved farmers \$200,000,000 a year, according to government analysis made by A. L. Mehner of the U. S. Department of Agriculture who shows that the sharp downward trend of fertilizer prices since 1930 was interrupted only during the period of the last year, when, due to our country's dependence at that time on foreign supplies, prices rose sharply. After that they again resumed their downward trend. At the same time the industry made the nation self-sufficient and no longer largely dependent upon foreign sources of supply.

"Prices dropped sharply during the depression and have never recovered to the extent that other commodities have. As a result of this fact, fertilizers today give the farmer real parity for his dollar," says Charles J. Brand, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the National Fertilizer Association. "Prices received by farmers for a crop rotation today would have to go up 21 per cent to reach parity with what farmers pay for all commodities which they buy. But, so far as fertilizer is concerned, the picture is different. The present price of fertilizer is low but it gives the farmer, instead of a 21 per cent handicap, a 5 per cent advantage on every dollar he spends for fertilizer."

Returns from a recent survey of 32,000 farmers show that an investment in low-priced fertilizers yielded high returns. An average of \$3.00 returned for each \$1.00 which they have. As a result of this fact, fertilizers today give the farmer real parity for his dollar," says Charles J. Brand, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the National Fertilizer Association. "Prices received by farmers for a crop rotation today would have to go up 21 per cent to reach parity with what farmers pay for all commodities which they buy. But, so far as fertilizer is concerned, the picture is different. The present price of fertilizer is low but it gives the farmer, instead of a 21 per cent handicap, a 5 per cent advantage on every dollar he spends for fertilizer."

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Youthful Corn Champs Win
National Honors With Fertilizer

BEVERLY MEAL
Walton, Indiana

CHARLES N. FISCHER
Shelbyville, Indiana

Washington, D. C.—Youth, with its clean eyes fixed on better farming practices, carried off the corn honors for this year when 11-year old Beverly Meal, Walton, Indiana, was named Corn Princess, and Charles N. Fischer, Shelbyville, Indiana, was made Corn King at the recent International Day and Grain Show at Chicago.

The latest farming methods, plus proper use of fertilizer, made them champs. Miss Meal's 10 acres of Red's Yellow Dent, from which she took the champion ears with an 83.4 bushel yield, were plowed, disked and later cultivated with a team and by hand. She fertilized her corn with 100 pounds per acre of complete fertilizer, drilled in the rows.

after tests that showed the land was becoming deficient in potash. The additional potash added in good finish and maturity of the crop. Miss Meal followed a crop rotation of corn-wheat-clover.

Carl Fischer has been developing his corn over a period of ten years, but this is the first year his exhibit gained national recognition. He has an 80-acre farm on which he uses a 3-year rotation including corn-wheat-clover. This past season he raised 20 acres of corn with an 84 bushel yield. His farm program includes hops, dairy cattle, and general farming. He fertilized his corn with 100 pounds per acre of complete fertilizer, drilled in the rows.

TOBACCO HEARING TODAY

Hon. P. H. Drewry, Congressman representing the Fourth Virginia District in the House of Representatives, has announced that people in the Fourth District, from the tobacco areas, will be given an opportunity to be heard with reference to the proposed increase in tobacco taxes.

Report automobile manufacturers to curtail output of new cars in order to fill defense program contracts.

Mid-week prayer service, Wednesday at 8 P. M. All are welcome.

Appomattox is a growing town.

Rev. Roy Clark, pastor.

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